

**CLASS TITLE: PRINCIPAL NATURAL RESOURCE
 SPECIALIST**

**Class Code: 02743400
Pay Grade: 27A
EO: B**

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To plan, supervise, review and evaluate the work of a staff of a professional and technical nature in order to insure compliance with the provisions of the Rhode Island Fresh Wetlands Act; to supervise the preparation of evaluations and recommendations on the potential effects of proposed buildings, projects and developments on the environmental well being of fresh water wetlands sites; to supervise difficult technical research projects; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of the Division Chief with wide latitude for exercising independent judgement; work is reviewed upon completion through written and oral reports for conformance to state law and departmental rules, regulations and procedures.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Plans, assigns, supervises and reviews the work of technicians and others assigned to assist.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To plan, supervise, review and evaluate the work of a staff engaged in advanced biological field work of a professional and technical nature in order to insure compliance with the provisions of the Rhode Island Fresh Water Wetlands Act; to supervise the preparation of evaluations and recommendations on the potential effects of proposed buildings, projects and developments on the environmental well-being of fresh water wetlands sites.

To supervise the classification of wetland areas as bogs, marshes, swamps, rivers, river banks, flood plains or ponds according to such criteria as the presence or absence of certain types and amounts of vegetation, the size of the parcel of land encompassed by the wetland and the number of months per year the land area is covered by water.

To ascertain the possible effects of fresh water wetland projects or alterations on such environmental factors: reduction in the volume of flood plain; reduction in the level of water quality; reduction in wildlife habitat; or reduction in recreational value.

To supervise the preparation of the written reports indicating which aspects of project applications are acceptable and which aspects require modification or must be rejected.

To assist applicants in understanding and complying with the provisions of the Rhode Island Fresh Water Wetlands Act.

To supervise the investigation of complaints pertaining to possible violations of the Act, issuing "cease and desist" orders in those instances where projects or alterations are adjudged to be illegal, and to recommend that restoration be made of fresh water wetlands which have suffered detrimental effects as a result of an unauthorized activity.

As required, to provide data to the Department's Chief Legal Counsel for use by the Attorney General in prosecuting violators of the Act and in preparing defenses for the Department Director for actions taken pursuant to the Act.

To give testimony in court as an expert witness for the state.

To assist in developing detailed descriptions, drawings and maps of parcels of real estate from local property records and aerial photographs and to assist in determining owner or owners of record.

To provide consultative services to departmental superiors on Natural Resource Conservation matters which require technical assessment of the effects of highway development or other type of construction programs on the natural resources of fresh water wetlands.

To participate in in-service training programs for subordinates.

To perform administrative and advanced technical work in the assigned programs.

To submit recommendations to the Division Chief relative to research and management programs, including proposals for changes in laws and regulations.

To serve as liaison for the division with various federal, state and local agencies relative to program activities.

To prepare technical correspondence for departmental superiors on Natural Resource Conservation matters as may be required.

As required, to deliver presentations to private and public groups and agencies for the purpose of explaining the provisions of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of the Rhode Island Fresh Water Wetlands Act and state regulations pertaining to the protection of fresh water wetlands; a thorough knowledge of the various species of flora found in fresh water wetlands and the ability to recognize same; a working knowledge of the feeding, breeding, migratory habits and other factors affecting the environmental conditions of all kinds of fish, wild fowl and game; the ability to plan, supervise and review the work of subordinates engaged in the program; a working knowledge of the techniques and methods used in the collection and preservation of topographical, environmental and other data; the ability to plan, supervise and review the work of subordinates engaged in the program; the ability to make field studies and surveys and to collect, analyze and interpret data on natural resource conservation and management problems and to submit comprehensive reports and recommendations thereon; the ability to use and interpret aerial photographs and geodetic quadrangle sheets; the ability to make scale maps and graphs of field data; the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with superiors, subordinates, the general public and governmental officials; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a college of recognized standing with a Bachelor's Degree in one of the Natural Resources fields; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: considerable employment in a responsible supervisory capacity which involved evaluating the environmental effects of projects on wetland areas.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

Class Created: December 14, 1980

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